



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER FEDERAL AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS STRAW PURCHASING SCHEME**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in San Antonio this afternoon, 58-year-old Celerino "Cele" Castillo, III, of McAllen, Texas, pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to obtain firearms by false statement during firearms purchase and obtaining firearms by false statement during firearms purchase. As a result, the former Drug Enforcement Administration agent faces up to 15 years in federal prison and a maximum \$500,000 fine.

By pleading guilty, Castillo admitted that from December 2006 until March 6, 2008, he and others conspired to obtain dozens of pistols and rifles from registered firearms dealers by providing false information on ATF certification forms concerning the actual purchaser.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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